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Lastly, I come to the great geographical publication of the year. I hold in my hand the book which recounts the journeys and researches of my eminent friend Dr. Livingstone in Africa. This production marks an epoch in geographical science. Whether we look to the candour and honesty of the man, to his clear-sightedness as a traveller, to the firmness of purpose with which he executed those high resolves upon which he was bent, we cannot but be proud, as Englishmen, that he should have been carried through such difficulties as he encountered, and have produced such a work as this. Though the modest traveller has stated in his preface that he would rather travel over Africa again than write a book, his story is here put forth in so artless, so clear, and yet so telling a manner, that I venture to say Dr. Livingstone's style will be admired by many of those who might be supposed to become his critics. It is really refreshing to turn to these pages, and see how a traveller, who is bent only upon speaking the plain truth to Englishmen, wins your hearts, and how he so carries you with him as to give you a full conception of the African character. In congratulating you and all my countrymen upon the production of this remarkable work, let me congratulate Mr. Murray in particular in having had the good fortune to meet with such an author as Dr. Livingstone.

The PRESIDENT then took the Diploma of Corresponding Member, which he had signed, and, addressing Dr. Livingstone, said: In the presence of this company of your associates, I beg to present to you this Diploma of the Royal Geographical Society. I hope you will accept it as a testimony of our unfeigned and sincere admiration of your conduct, and of the respect which, as geographers, we shall ever entertain towards you for having realised that which no Englishman has ever accomplished—the traverse of the great continent of South Africa.

The Diploma was then presented to Dr. Livingstone, amid the acclamations of the members.

Dr. LIVINGSTONE: Really, Sir, I am in want of words to express my gratitude and thankfulness for the very kind manner in which you have referred to my labours. I beg to return my heartfelt thanks to you, as the President of the Society, for the remarks you have made, and to the Fellows for the kind manner in which they have received those remarks.

The Papers read were:—

1. *Additional Notes on the North Australian Expedition under Mr. A. C. Gregory.* By MR. THOMAS BAINES, F.R.G.S., Artist to the Expedition.

In the beginning of March 1855, through the recommendation of the Council of this Society, I was appointed Artist and Storekeeper to the North Australian Expedition, and joined Mr. Gregory, the commander, in Sydney on the 21st of May. As his reports have been read at previous meetings, it will only be necessary for me to notice briefly the leading points in the operations of the expedition up to the time that Mr. Gregory sent me with a detachment of the expedition in the Tom Tough schooner to procure fresh supplies from Timor.

The expedition consisted of a total of 18 persons and 50 horses, and on the 12th of August we sailed from Moreton Bay, taking the inner passage to Torres Strait. During this part of our voyage we

had fair breezes from the south and south-east, with smooth water; and though the necessity of anchoring at night, during the latter part of it, somewhat delayed us, we were inclined to think that the dangers of the outer passage would have more than counterbalanced this disadvantage. We saw four or five canoes at different times in the vicinity of Cape York: they were of single logs, hollowed out, and fitted with outriggers, also of wood and boat-shaped, to prevent their capsizing.

The natives seemed to unite the characteristics of the Australian and Papuan races. They were ornamented with regularly formed scars, which, being pulled open as they healed, allowed the new flesh to rise and form a prominence as thick as a man's finger. They had spears of hard wood, with pieces of bone, forming points and barbs, lashed on with strips of bark, and bows of bamboo with strings of the outer rind of the same, and arrows of wood or reed tipped with hard wood. These, as well as pieces of tortoise shell, they bartered for sticks of tobacco, handkerchiefs, &c.

The country here was covered with ant hills of red clay, twenty feet in height. We searched on Albany Island for the graves of those who perished on Kennedy's Expedition, but I believe none of our party saw them. I painted a record of our visit in black letters on a rock near the beach.

On the evening of September 2nd, the *Monarch*, which was leading at the time, ran upon a reef; and the schooner, which anchored near, grounded for two hours at low water. We found the barque on a flat bed of rock, the inequalities of which we picked away, to lessen the chance of injury to her keel, but were not able to get her off till Monday, the 10th. We obtained a little water from the well mentioned by Captain Stokes on Quail Island.

On Friday the 14th of September we anchored near Point Pearce, having seen nothing of the *Monarch* for the last three days; and on the 15th we ran up with the flood tide between the broad shoals in the estuary of the Victoria. At night we entered the river, and anchored in Blunder Bay, where, on Sunday the 16th, Mr. Gregory landed with a party to search for water, and found a rocky pool containing several hundred gallons. We sailed immediately, and, on Monday afternoon, again anchored near Point Pearce, where we found the *Monarch* landing the horses, which, for want of fresh water, could no longer be kept on board. We of course assisted; and though we had to swim them three miles, forty-one were safely landed, seven or eight having been drowned, one irrecoverably fixed in the mud, and another lost after he was brought ashore.

The sheep were transferred to the Tom Tough, and the Monarch being no longer required, sailed for Singapore. Mr. Gregory, with the party from the Monarch, proceeded over land with the horses, while we in the Tom Tough were to meet him at Kangaroo Point, up the Victoria.

Unfortunately, in running up with a light wind and strong tide, the schooner grounded, and drifting with successive tides from one shoal to another, remained on shore for twenty-seven days, losing an anchor and cable, straining herself so that sometimes it was feared she would go to pieces, and spoiling a great quantity of bread from the water, which at one time was four feet deep in her hold. The sheep, a hundred and forty in number, suffered greatly for want of water, and died daily. We made a trip to Palm Island, thirty or forty miles higher up the river, and brought down six hundred gallons in the inflatable canoe, and commenced boating the sheep up to a place in Long Reach, where we had found a well, and where Mr. J. R. Elsey with three men formed a camp.

Here, in October, Mr. Gregory arrived with thirty-six horses, four having been left behind from weakness or died from poison, and three more had been dangerously bitten by alligators near a small creek of the Fitz-Maurice River. He went down with me in the boat to the schooner, and, landing a little lower down the river, found water oozing from under a stone below high water mark. We scooped out a well, and in the night filled two large casks, much to the astonishment of the crew, who could not understand our digging for fresh water underneath the salt. Our sheep were landed at a small pool, and when the schooner reached the place where the camp had been established, were brought up by the boats; the poor remnant of our flock comprising only a few miserable skeletons out of two hundred. I repaired the inflatable canoe, making two boats of it instead of a double one, as originally intended; and, on the 15th of November, Mr. Gregory, with Mr. Wilson, myself, and Flood, started for a day's trip up the river, which we found, like most of the Australian rivers, a chain of pools, perhaps a mile or two in length, with long portages between them. In the afternoon of the 17th we turned back, reaching camp the next day.

On the 23rd, Mr. Gregory, with his brother Henry, Mr. Wilson, and Dr. Mueller, left camp with seven horses, to make a preparatory exploration of the country. Captain Gourlay was busy with his own and our men in cutting timber, with which he laid a substantial inner frame in the Tom Tough, and I was left to see to the safety of the camp and horses. Two of these strayed to a consi-

derable distance, and taking with me Bowman, the best of our stock men, I went out for three days without success; but, on the next attempt, thinking they might probably have gone to the westward, where Captain Stokes had indicated the mouth of a creek entering the Victoria, I had the good fortune to find a large stream, where we were met by a tribe of natives, six of whom stood out in skirmishing order, with their spears poised upon their throwing-sticks; others stood in the rear as supports, and the rest remained in the bush close by. Our efforts to conciliate them were fruitless, and as in another minute they would have launched their spears, we charged them at full speed, revolver in hand. They fled immediately, and after chasing them a few hundred yards, we let them go, not thinking it necessary to fire on them. In the afternoon we found the horses, and next day reached camp, where we met Mr. Gregory, who had returned. Mr. Gregory now selected his brother, Dr. Mueller, Mr. Flood, myself, and four of the men, to accompany him on his next journey. We packed 30 horses, 27 of which carried on each side 50 lbs. of flour, sugar, or pork, with other things, making up the load to an average weight of 168 or 170 lbs., and left six for the alternate use of the party. The gunpowder was securely packed in half pound canisters in the centre of the flour bags. On the 1st of January, 1856, we started, but the horses being fresh and wild, took fright and rushed through a swamp, throwing off their packs, and losing about 100 lbs. of sugar. On the 3rd all damages were repaired, and we started again. The rivers were at this time so much swollen by the rains, that we had to pass a line over a tree in Jasper Creek and swing the whole of our packages, weighing upwards of a ton and a half, across it.

On the 13th we reached the large western branch of the Victoria, and travelling up this till the 22nd, we turned to the southward, and next day, with a small party, pushed forward to select a convenient spot for a dépôt. We found the land elevated to a height of 1160 feet, and consisting of extensive plains thinly overflowed with volcanic rock, which, forming good black soil, was covered with rich grass. Agate was plentiful, and out of this and the trap rock the blacks had been making vast numbers of spears and tomahawks, by striking one stone against another, something after the process adopted in making gun-flints. The ant hills had been excavated in search of larvæ and eggs; fresh water muscles had been fished up from the brooks; the trees had been notched by climbers in search of lizards, birds' nests, or honey; and holes in the ground appeared to have served as cooking places

for kangaroo or emeu flesh, which, wrapped in sheets of bark, was heated by several applications of hot stones.

On the 30th, Mr. Gregory, with his brother, Dr. Mueller and Dean, with eleven horses, started for the interior; and next day I selected a spot on Dépôt Creek, in 17° S., to form a camp, building a bark hut for myself and the stores, and another for the men, and marking a tree line to the spot where I had parted with Mr. Gregory, to guide him on his return to my camp.

On the 15th of March, and forty-fifth day of Mr. Gregory's absence, the blacks commenced burning the grass round us, but were driven off; and we were subsequently much annoyed by their attempts to encircle our horses with a line of fire, thinking probably that they were wild animals, and that of course they had a right to hunt them. I was obliged to ride out every day for the protection of our stud, and one day, after having been nearly surprised by the natives during our halt at noon, got near enough to send a bullet past them as a warning, which fortunately was understood, and our cattle were not again molested.

On the 27th Mr. Gregory returned, having traced the source of the Victoria, and found a river, which he named Sturt Creek, flowing toward the south-west, as far as $20^{\circ} 18'$ S., where it terminated in a salt lake. From its appearance he supposed it would be flooded once in three or four years, when of course it would enable a party to penetrate much farther into the desert. Taking with him his brother, myself, and Fahey, Mr. Gregory now rode to the eastward, and traced nearly all the tributaries of the Victoria. The country was mostly basaltic or trap plain, and Mr. Gregory calculated that he had seen three million acres of first-rate, well-watered pasture. While fording the main stream of the Victoria, Mr. Gregory's horse trod upon the back of an alligator, which was lying just below the surface; but the monster, alarmed at the interruption to his slumbers, shot straight away into deep water, without attempting to injure either the horse or his rider.

In another branch we found a dam with a narrow opening, near which the natives place a large basket to receive the fish as they drive them through. There were also several paintings in red, white, black, and yellow, on the rocks, some of them representing a snake with two horns and two fore-legs. Beside these, we found a great number of rough stone-walls roofed with sticks and grass, so as to form a kind of hut; but they were too small even for a man to sleep in, and did not appear to have been put to any use whatever.

We saw very few kangaroos or emeus, but sometimes shot a lizard,

a crane, or a few ducks or cockatoos, all which were accounted good feeding by the party; while the snakes, which were just as good, fell to the share of Fahey and myself.

*On the 9th of May we reached the main camp, which Mr. Wilson had entrenched during our absence. The schooner had been taken down the river and laid on a bank to complete her repairs, but nearly all her crew were more or less disabled by scurvy, and the carpenter had died. A good understanding had subsisted between the party in camp and the natives, except on one occasion when, I believe, spears had been thrown and a shot fired, which had wounded one of them in the arm.

Our rations had hitherto consisted of flour and salt pork, the latter having been so wasted by the sun that ten 4 lb. pieces, when weighed, amounted only to 8 lbs., but, nevertheless, had to be issued at their nominal and not their real value. Mr. Gregory now took a 6 lb. tin of preserved beef, and, kneading as much flour into it, made biscuits, which proved so satisfactory that he worked up a large supply for the next journey.

I was mostly employed in the boats conveying surplus stores to the schooner, which was about 35 miles down the river; and landing opposite on one occasion to meet a party of natives, one of them, after selling spears to one of our men, took them out of the boat again; they also attempted to steal a tomahawk, but did not succeed, and one tried to pass his hand behind me and catch the arm with which I held my pistol. Another snatched the gun carried by Adams, but the sailor, being a powerful man, wrested it from him, and would have shot one of them, had he been permitted.

On Saturday, the 21st of June, Mr. Gregory, accompanied by his brother; the surgeon, Mr. Elsey; the botanist, Dr. Mueller; and three men, with thirty-four horses, seven of which were reserved for the saddle, left camp for the Gulf of Carpentaria, having ordered me to take charge of the remaining detachment, and proceed with the schooner to Coepang, in the island of Timor, for provisions. After this I was to meet him in the Gulf of Carpentaria, at the fork of the Albert River, just above the highest point reached by the boats of H.M.S. Beagle.

In passing down the river I observed an alligator on the Horse-shoe Flat, near Curiosity Peak; and going ashore with Mr. Humphery, the second overseer, we killed the animal, which was incapable of moving quickly on a level surface.

We took in water from Mr. Gregory's well, and wood from alongside, and the sailors gathered the fruit of the gouty-stem-tree,

the acid pulp of which, boiled up with sugar, greatly relieved the men, who were suffering from scurvy.

On Thursday, the 17th of July, we weighed and proceeded down the river, leaving a bottle with a letter, and a board with directions for finding it, on Entrance Island, as I had done already at the camp. On the 22nd we reached Point Pearce, and on the 25th we ran along the coast of Timor and worked into the bay of Coepang, where we anchored within half a mile of the beach opposite the town. The vessel had made but little water, and, as the sailors were still weak, I divided my own men into watches to work the pumps when necessary. The south coast of Timor seemed composed of mountains and rounded hills of moderate height, the latter covered with forest, and the lower slopes with cocoa-nut trees and other tropical vegetation. A small river runs from a gap in these toward the town; the water is fresh to within a hundred yards of the sea at low water, when there is hardly a foot of water on the bar, but vessels drawing six feet can enter with the tide. Fort Concordia stands at the mouth of the river, on a rock, apparently of old coral.

The Dutch resident, T. Van Capellen, was very kind to us; and though the master of the schooner had much difficulty in provisioning the vessel, I was in hopes that I could not only procure the supplies for the expedition, but assist him in those required for his crew, when the vessel was declared unfit to return east, and I had to run 600 miles to the westward to Surabaya, in Java—the strong south-east wind, which carried us thither, precluding all hope of our being able to work back again in less than six or eight weeks.

The Indian islands appeared very mountainous, and smoke was emitted from several volcanoes. Some of the hills in Java and Bali were 3000 or 4000 feet in height, but to the northward, as we passed through the narrowest part of the strait of Madura, towards Surabaya, the coast shelved down till it became an extensive flat, with broad mudbanks and shoals in the channel. The canoes and proas, under the immense triangular sails which their outriggers enable them to support, were very beautiful and picturesque, and I sketched several of them.

The town of Surabaya is situated on the Kedirie or Kaliemaas River, two miles from its mouth, opposite which the vessels lie, and passengers go up either in carriages or native boats, towed up by men walking on the bank.

The breaking of the Tom Tough's mainmast, while she was hove down for repairs, obliged me to discharge her, and having engaged a brigantine, the Messenger, on the 26th of August, every-

thing was transferred so quickly to her as to enable me to proceed to sea on the 30th.

To avoid the strong south-east wind and constant lee current on the south side of the islands, we kept to the north of them, where we found an eddy or counter current setting to the east with light variable winds, and by taking advantage of the land and sea breezes were able to make 20 or 30 miles a day.

With the purpose of keeping our water filled to the latest opportunity, and avoiding the consumption occasioned by a large quantity of live stock, I had given the captain leave to purchase provisions at Dielli, the chief of the Portuguese settlements on the north coast of Timor, where we arrived on the 1st of October, and about 3 p.m. anchored in a harbour almost perfectly enclosed by low coral reefs, the only other vessel there being a coasting schooner that had been 45 days in making the same passage as ourselves. We found the Portuguese Governor, Don Messada, very kind, and ready to dispense with any restriction that could cause delay. Here I purchased five horses with the intention of searching for traces of Mr. Gregory should he not have visited the rendezvous, and on the 4th October, at daybreak, we made sail. We worked our way slowly to the east, till we had nearly reached Timor Laut, when we shaped our course for Cape Wessel, but, the wind again proving contrary, only made Cape Croker on the 19th.

I had been occupied, with the help of Mr. Phibbs, in fitting saddlery to the horses for two riders and three packs, and making side-bags proportioned to the load they would be able to carry, and, as I expected light southerly winds in the Gulf of Carpentaria, in preparing the longboat to work in advance of the ship from Cape Wessel to the Albert River—thus, if it were possible, to communicate with Mr. Gregory, to inform him of the approach of the Messenger, and prevent his leaving with insufficient supplies. In this I was most cordially assisted by Captain Devine, who spent fully a week in doing everything that could be thought of to render the boat safe and comfortable.

Contrary winds and a strong current prevented our making much progress; and finding upon trial that the boat sailed faster in light winds than the ship, I determined to leave at once. I left instructions with the captain respecting the movements of the vessel; with Mr. Flood concerning the management of the party and horses; and with Mr. Graham, mate of the vessel, and Mr. Phibbs, overseer of the expedition, both of whom had volunteered for the service, I left the Messenger about 6 p.m. on the 23rd, New Year's Island bearing S.S.W. about six miles. We steered S.E. and E.S.E. all

night, going about two knots ; but such was the strength of the current, that at daybreak we were barely able to weather the island. The breeze freshened during the day, and our boat, which was not more than 18 feet long, taking in much water, we were obliged to run for shelter, and reached a rocky islet to leeward of M'Clure Island about 10 P.M.

On the 25th, after an attempt to work to windward, we landed on the island, and spent the rest of the day in filling the open seams and stretching round the gunwales a couple of inflatable canvas tubes which the Captain had made for me. I found on the east or weather side of the island a plank of a Malay proa and several bamboo poles set upright in hollows of the rocks, most likely as signals of distress.

On the 26th we weighed at daylight and steered to the south-east with a fine breeze, falling away to calms, with squalls and heavy showers at night, against which we had no shelter, nor, from the room occupied by our water-cask and provisions, any convenient place to sleep.

On the 27th Mr. Phibbs was ill, and at night, finding that we could not stem the current, I anchored in three fathoms blue mud and shells, some miles from Sims Island. Next day I put into a small cove on the west side of Sims Island, and remained all day ; Mr. Graham being attacked with a recurrence of fever and ague, from which he suffered periodically during the rest of the voyage.

On the 29th we worked through between the north and south Goulburn Islands ; from the former of which three natives came off in a canoe of hollowed wood, and kept alongside, though we had a good breeze for single reefed sails. They managed their little craft with great skill, standing up in her with perfect ease, striking off the head of a rising sea with their paddles as a cricketer stops a ball, and baling out the water that entered with a large shell. One of them had a long pole, in which he inserted loosely an iron spike with a line attached to it, and stood up to spear a turtle, which, however, dived too soon. He spoke some words of English, as "Tobaceo, me want him;" "Smoke him pipe;" "Berry good;" and, I thought, asked whether we were American. He told us there was water in the south island, and that his wife and piccaninnies were there. He gave a junk of turtle in exchange for some tobacco and a knife, and, when we tacked, ran along the shore with his "piccaninnies," waiting for us, in hope that we would land whenever the boat headed toward the shore. At night we landed on the north island to cook our supper, which illness prevented our enjoying.

On the 30th we stood to the south-east, with a heavy confused green sea, breaking occasionally in shallow places, and, as usual, at night had calms, with a squall, which pressed the boat's gunwale under before I could bring her to the wind, while a heavy shower drenched everything that the sea had not wetted.

In the morning we landed on a shelving beach, near Point Hall, and were joined by seven natives and a boy 13 or 14 years of age. Some of them had womeras or throwing sticks, rounded instead of flat, like those of the Victoria; but only one had a rough, sharpened pole, with which he speared a fish something like the snook of Table Bay. All except the boy were scarred, as usual. They could speak no English, but were very friendly, giving us as much of their fish as we chose to take, and sitting opposite our fire with their dogs to eat and drink the bread, pork, and tea that we gave them. They informed us that there was water to the north, where we saw the mouth of a small creek.

We had some difficulty during the day in finding a passage between a reef and the main land, and at night had strong breezes with indications of broken water. I am sorry to say that this day I found the chronometer and my watch wet through the leather case in which I kept them, and both were rendered unserviceable.

November 1st.—In the afternoon we made haul round the island, and, Mr. Graham being ill, I wished to land, but found the approach too dangerous; in attempting to work out the boat struck. We jumped out, and bore her off with no other injury than some severe cuts from the coral rocks that lamed us for several days after. I next tried another apparent harbour, but found no landing, and ran for Entrance Island, at the mouth of Liverpool River, where we found fire-places with heaps of charcoal and platforms for drying trepang, erected by the Malays.

On the 2nd it blew hard from the W.N.W. with a heavy and dangerous sea, and, after working all day, we weathered Sandy Island after sunset by little more than a quarter of a mile. The dangers of Cape Stewart and the Crocodile Islands were but imperfectly marked upon the map, and, failing to find any shelter, we were obliged to reef our sails and heave-to for the night.

In the morning of November 3rd we ran to the S.E., with a dangerous sea and breakers visible in almost every direction, to the largest Crocodile Island, where Mr. Phibbs swam ashore and discovered a small sheltered cove to which we followed him, and found the wreck of a Malay canoe and some trepang frames. The south side of the island not being marked on the map, I took sketches and bearings: it appeared to be a deep bay, fronted by other islands,

the rocks seemed hard and black like ironstone, and the rise of the tide was about 20 feet.

On the 4th we steered for Point Dale, and next day were becalmed off the opening marked as a probable strait, which, but for the loss of time, I should have been glad to explore.

On the 6th we landed at the mouth of a creek, but found it salt for a mile up and without water, except at tide time. In the afternoon we passed, as I believe, between the main and the land marked as Point Dale on Arrowsmith's map, with a tide of nearly four knots setting to the N.W., or dead against us, and sometimes completely neutralising the boat's progress. At sunset we reached the S.W. corner of the South Wessel Island, and, tracing up a small hollow, I found pools of water, containing several gallons each, and a native fire near them.

On the 7th we were working along shore with a light breeze and contrary tide, when I saw two canoes coming off from a rock near the North Cunningham Island. They landed on Wessel Island, and seemed to bring down spears, which shortly after we saw them take into the large canoe, while they put the boys into the other, shouting to us occasionally as if friendly. I ordered the fire-arms to be prepared and kept out of sight, wishing to abstain from hostilities as long as possible, and answered them in a friendly manner. They now made a trial of speed with us, and finding that they could paddle faster than we sailed, took up a position on our weather bow, and came on slowly, holding up junks of turtle, as if for barter, till they were near enough for one of them to throw a spear at us. It fell short, and he ordered the rest to paddle nearer and give him another, but at our first shot he dropped it and fell with the rest into the bottom of the canoe. Finding, however, that her sides were not bullet-proof, they jumped overboard and towed her away. Thinking them sufficiently punished, I did not pursue them; but, to show the superiority of our weapons, fired a Minié ball over them as they landed at 600 or 700 yards' distance.

On the 9th we were nearly off the Truant Island, and sailing to the S. at the rate of 60 or 70 miles a day, passed Groote Island, and made the land to the S.E. of the Pellew Islands on the evening of the 12th.

From this time we had easterly winds, against which we could not make head during the day, working round by N. to W. at night, and by S. back to E. before morning. Being now constantly at sea, we fitted up a preserved beef-tin as a furnace with another for a boiler, and, by burning the husks of cocoa-nuts dipped in oil and

chips off the trail of our bow-gun, cooked our meals when the weather permitted.

We were entangled at daybreak of the 16th among the shoals near the Forsyth Islands, but after working all day cleared them, and passing Points Bayley and Parker, steered for Investigator Road, anchoring at daybreak on the 17th, about half a mile S. of Inspection Hill, on the S.E. extremity of Sweers Island.

After an hour's rest we looked into Investigator Road, and, finding no vessel there, steered for the Albert, off the mouth of which, shortly after noon, we saw the Messenger getting under weigh, and about 2 P.M. were cordially welcomed to her decks.

The Messenger had been obliged to call at Sweers Island for water, but that in the Beagle's well, which Lieut. Chimmo, the commander of the Torch, had considerably re-opened for our use, proved so salt as to be quite unpleasant even when boiled with rice. The few buckets of water in our cask were, therefore, fairly distributed, and I served cocoa-nuts to every one on board.

The Messenger had reached the mouth of the river on the 12th of November, or about five days before us, and Captain Devine went in with the gig to look for the marks I had agreed to leave, but of course found none. From the very gradual deepening of the water, he had not more than 11 feet at low tide nearly 8 miles from the shore, when Mr. Flood, being furnished with a boat, went up the Albert, which he found quite salt up to the farthest point reached by the Beagle's boats. He found letters which stated that Mr. Gregory, having reached the rendezvous in 60 camps from the Victoria, and having nearly four months' provisions still in hand, did not consider it prudent to wait the arrival of the schooner, and was to start on the 3rd of September for the settled districts.

The discrepancy between the account given by our party and that of Captain Stokes, of the Albert River may be easily accounted for when we remember that the boats of the Beagle visited it at the close of the rainy season, and ours after a long continuance of dry weather, and will not seem extraordinary when it is stated that we observed a difference of 15 or 20 miles in the lower limit of the fresh water of the Victoria in the wet and dry seasons.

One of the crew had died, and was buried at the anchorage.

On the 18th we anchored in Investigator Road, and, landing on Sweers Island, cleared out Flinders' well, which is in the bed of a dry gully, about 80 yards from its mouth; the upper soil being light black mould, and the lower stratum rocky. The water flowed as quickly as the men could bale it up.

On the 26th we had completed our water, and leaving a statement of our visit at the foot of Flinders' tree, on which the name of the Investigator is still legible, we commenced our homeward voyage on the 27th.

I was directed by Mr. Gregory's letters to call at Port Curtis and Moreton Bay, on the E. coast, and apprise the Government authorities there of his situation; but the time fixed for my departure having been so long past, I thought the probability of my being able to do him any service very small in comparison with the risk to which the vessel and party would be exposed, should we attempt the dangerous and intricate navigation of Torres Strait and the Inner Passage against the constant S.E. wind and lee current always experienced there.

One of our largest water casks having been gnawed through by rats, 400 gallons of water were lost. This rendered it necessary to shoot the horses and throw them overboard. They could not have been landed at the Albert without great risk and an expenditure of at least two days for each horse, and on Sweers Island there was no surface water for them to drink. Besides this, as there were no mares, no good purpose could have been answered. I had a pair of goats which I intended to leave, but the female unfortunately died. I planted cocoa-nuts in a variety of places on Sweers Island.

We experienced light variable winds, mostly from the E., till the 19th of December, when we reached Coepang, and learned that the Torch had been there and passed on to Surabaya shortly after our first visit. The former resident, T. Van Capellen, had been succeeded by a gentleman from the Cape of Good Hope named Fraenkel, who treated us with great kindness during our stay.

On the 27th, our supply of water having been filled and the vessel well furnished with live stock and vegetables, we sailed from Coepang, but a strong gale from the N.W. obliged us to put back to Pulo Borong, a small island in the same bay, where the Government cruizer is laid for security during the N.W. monsoon.

On the 30th we again put to sea, but meeting with strong westerly gales did not weather the N.W. Cape till January 30th; and subsequently meeting strong S.E. and S. winds had to stretch very far to the W.

Our allowance of water had been reduced early in the voyage, a great quantity being consumed by the live stock, and on the 12th of February we were glad to meet an American whaler, the Mechanic of Newport, the captain of which kindly filled four casks for us, and finding a westerly wind in about 39° S., we were in hope of

completing our voyage, when a change drove us again to the N., and as we were again reduced to three pints of water per day each, I thought it prudent to put into King George Sound. Here we met the steam-ship *Oneida*, which had put back in consequence of some damage to her machinery, and learned with pleasure that Mr. Gregory and party had arrived safely at Sydney, some of the passengers having conversed with members of the expedition.

On the morning of the 6th of March we left King George Sound, and entered Port Jackson on the evening of the 30th.

T. B.

The PRESIDENT then directed attention to a series of paintings, from the pencil of Mr. Baines, illustrating the natural scenery of the regions visited by him.

The second Paper read was:—

2. *Report on the Country between Mount Serle and Lake Torrens, South Australia.* By Assistant-Surveyor G. W. GOYDER.

Communicated by the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., F.R.G.S., H. M. Secretary for the Colonies.

To the Hon. the Surveyor-General.

Survey Office, July 8, 1857.

SIR—I have the honour to report that, after completing, on the 2nd of May last, the survey of the road from Saltia Creek to Pichi-richi, I proceeded to join the surveyors sent to triangulate the country beyond Mount Serle.

From the summit of Mount Serle, Mount MacKinlay is seen, about 12 miles distant, to the eastward; its rounded top and precipitous sides forming the most prominent feature in the landscape. The eastern plains are clearly perceptible beyond its southern fall, intercepted by that glittering belt of sand described by Mr. Eyre as the eastern wing of Lake Torrens, and which satisfied him of the impracticable nature of the country and the existence of an insuperable barrier to his efforts in that direction.

To the north-east and south-east of Mount Serle, Arcoona Bluff and Mount Rowe, which form the termini of the extended base, present their bold and rugged outlines to the eye; while more to the south the peaks of Constitution and Exertion Hills appear—their undulating spurs extending to the south, behind the southern portion of Mount Serle, which effectually shuts out the view in that direction. To the south-west the Anglopina Pound range is most conspicuous, backed by a variety of picturesque hills—named by the settlers the Cockscomb, MacFarlane Hill, Mounts Hack, Stuart,